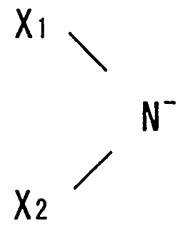
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant seamless belt comprised ~~composed~~ of a thermoplastic composition containing a polyester thermoplastic elastomer as a main component thereof; at not less than 15 wt% ~~nor~~ and not more than 40 wt% of melamine cyanurate, serving as a flame-retardant additive, ~~for a whole~~ based on the total weight of said thermoplastic composition; and not less than 0.01 parts by weight ~~nor~~ and not more than three parts by weight of an anion-containing salt, shown by a chemical formula ~~1~~ (1) shown below, ~~for~~ per 100 parts by weight of an entire polymer component,

wherein said thermoplastic composition has a volume resistivity of not less than $1.0\times10^{6}\,\Omega\cdot cm$ ~~nor~~ and not more than $1.0\times10^{12}\,\Omega\cdot cm$ [[.]] :

~~Chemical Formula 1~~



(1)

where X_1 and X_2 each denote a functional group [[,]] containing C, -F, and $-SO_2-$, whose number of carbon atoms is one to eight.

2. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 1, wherein said X_1- of said chemical formula (1) ~~1~~ is $C_{n1}H_{m1}F_{(2n1-m1+1)}$-$SO_2$-, and said X_2- of said chemical formula (1) ~~1~~ is $C_{n2}H_{m2}F_{(2n2-m2+1)}$-$SO_2$- [[(]] wherein n1 and n2 are integers not less than 1, and m1 and m2 are integers not less than 0 [[)]] .

3. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 1, wherein a cation making a pair with said anion ~~, shown by~~ of said chemical formula (1) ~~1~~, which constitutes said salt is a cation of any one of alkali metals, group 2A metals, transition metals, and amphoteric metals.

4. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 3, wherein ~~a metal constituting~~ said cation ~~is~~ comprises lithium.

5. (Original) The flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 1, wherein said anion-containing salt is lithium-bis (trifluoromethanesulfonyl) imide.

6. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 1, wherein said anion-containing salt ~~shown by~~ of said chemical formula ~~1~~ (1) is added to said entire polymer component without intermediary of a medium consisting of a low-molecular-weight polyether-containing compound or a low-molecular-weight polar compound whose molecular weight is not more than 10000.

7. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 1, wherein ~~supposing that a~~ when the volume resistivity of said flame-retardant seamless belt measured at a low temperature of 10°C and a low humidity of 15% is R_{LL} and that a volume resistivity thereof measured at a high temperature of 32.5°C and a high humidity of 90% is R_{HH}, the volume resistivity R_{LL} and the volume resistivity R_{HH} satisfy an equation of $\log_{10}R_{LL} - \log_{10}R_{HH} \leqq 2.5$.

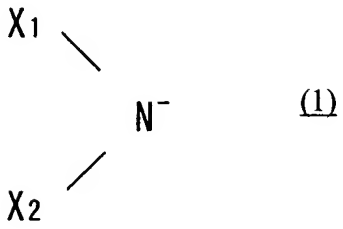
8. (Original) The flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 1, having at least one coating layer on a peripheral surface thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a flame-retardant seamless belt comprising the steps of:

fusing and kneading~~, by~~ in an extruder [[,]] a conductive master batch containing a polyester thermoplastic elastomer and not less than one wt% ~~nor~~ and not more than 20 wt% of an anion-containing salt, shown below by a chemical formula (1) ~~1~~, added to said polyester thermoplastic elastomer; a flame-retardant additive; and a thermoplastic composition containing said polyester thermoplastic elastomer as a main component thereof to form a material for said flame-retardant seamless belt; and

extruding said material from an annular die and molding said material into a shape of a belt by using a sizing die [[.]] ,

~~Chemical Formula 1~~



(1)

~~where~~ wherein X_1 and X_2 each denote a functional group which contains C, -F, and $-SO_2-$ and in which the number of carbon atoms is one to eight.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said flame-retardant additive and said thermoplastic composition containing said polyester thermoplastic elastomer as said main component thereof are kneaded and supplied to said extruder as a flame-retardant master batch; and said mixture of said conductive master batch and said flame-retardant master batch are extruded vertically from said annular die.

11. (Original) An image-forming apparatus having said flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 1.

12. (New) The flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 1, comprising not less than 20 wt% and not more than 35 wt% of melamine cyanurate, serving as a flame-retardant additive.

13. (New) The flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 1, wherein said volume resistivity is not less than $1.0\times10^{6}\,\Omega\cdot cm$ and not more than $1.0\times10^{11}\,\Omega\cdot cm$.

14. (New) The flame-retardant seamless belt according to claim 1, wherein said polyester thermoplastic elastomer is a copolymer of a hard segment consisting of polyester having an aromatic ring and a low-melting point soft segment consisting of a polyether and/or polyester.